

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Pilot fire is 70 percent contained as children return to school

By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun

Thursday, August 11, 2016



Firefighters continued to gain ground in the battle against the Pilot Fire overnight increasing containment to 70 percent, fire officials said Thursday.

- **PHOTOS:** [Crews making substantial progress in fight against the Pilot fire](#)

As of this morning, the fire had only burned a few more acres increasing from 7,861 acres to on 7,899 acres, said Eric Sherwin with the Southern California Management Team 3.

Much like Wednesday, fire officials said they will continue to focus on reinforcing and extending the established fire line around the large blaze.

High Desert schools are back in session today after the Pilot fire shut down several campuses due to bad air quality.

The Apple Valley, Hesperia and Oro Grande unified school districts canceled classes Wednesday after heavy smoke from the wildfire drifted into the communities. This was the first week of school for High Desert districts.

Hesperia Unified schools will follow their normal full-day schedule, while Apple Valley Unified will be on an “early release” schedule for Thursday, and full-day schedule on Friday, according to statements from both districts.

“We will continue to monitor air quality and limit outdoor activity as appropriate. We want to thank you all for your patience this week,” Hesperia Unified said in a statement.

“We would also like to extend a special thanks to our firefighters, the Red Cross, our school police department and all of the other school employees who have worked to protect and support our community and the surrounding areas during this time.”

As of late Wednesday night, a total of 1,662 firefighters were assigned to the fire, including 85 engines, 115 water tenders, 47 crews, 18 bulldozers and 12 helicopters.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160811/pilot-fire-is-70-percent-contained-as-children-return-to-school>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

By Staff reports

[Print Page](#)

August 11, 2016 6:44AM

PILOT FIRE MORNING UPDATE: Fire officials report 70 percent containment

HESPERIA — Fire officials announced Thursday morning the Pilot Fire is 70 percent contained and the blaze has consumed 7,899 acres — more than 12 square miles — in the San Bernardino Mountains and Summit Valley.

Southern California Incident Management Team 3 spokesman Eric Sherwin said fire crews continued to increase working on fire containment lines overnight. Sherwin estimates firefighters have now created containment lines on the blaze's northwestern perimeter.

"The only open line we have is on the mountain side of the fire," Sherwin said. "We will continue to work with fixed winged aircraft, helicopters and ground crews to continue to build containment lines up there," Sherwin said a little before 7 a.m. "We will also continue to improve the lines on the Hesperia side of the fire and mop up into the interior of the fire."

Sherwin said firefighters battled overnight winds that "carried through the night."

"For the last three days we have had a period each night where the wind dies off," he said. "That didn't take place last night. The winds pushed through the night. Our humidities were extremely low. But even with those factors we were able to maintain the containment lines previously established."

Hesperia residents awoke to smokeless skies Thursday morning, as firefighters continued to get the upper hand on the Pilot Fire, which is now in its fifth day.

Children across the Victor Valley will return to school, many after an unscheduled two-day vacation brought on by heavy smoke from the blaze that has charred more than 12 square miles of the San Bernardino Mountains and Summit Valley.

More than 1,700 personnel are involved in the massive effort, which has resulted in the voluntary or mandatory evacuation of more than 5,300 homes, most in the mountain communities of Crestline, Lake Gregory and Lake Arrowhead.

The animal evacuation center at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds will close today, and any animals not claimed by their owners by noon will be moved to the Devore facility, officials said.

It is likely the Red Cross evacuation center at Oak Hills High School also will close soon.

Students in the Apple Valley Unified, Hesperia Unified and Oro Grande school districts will return to class. All three districts closed all their campuses on Tuesday and Wednesday because of health concerns brought about by poor air quality.

A smoke advisory remains in effect for the Victor Valley, but the fire produced little smoke in the area on Wednesday evening and blue skies were the norm again for the first time since Sunday morning.

This story will be updated throughout the day. Return to www.vvdailypress.com frequently for the latest information and updates on the Pilot Fire.



A firefighter hoses down dirt and ash in Summit Valley on Wednesday as fire crews moved into a clean-up mode for that area of the Pilot Fire. David Pardo, Daily Press

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160811/NEWS/160819960>

[Print Page](#)



Fighting wildfires - for weeks at a time - takes toll on families at home

By BRIAN ROKOS

2016-08-10 16:44:28



Robyn Gogue will take her twin 5-year-old daughters to their first day of kindergarten next week in Menifee.

Her husband, Roy, a Cal Fire firefighter, isn't able to attend the milestone moment.

"I know he's upset that he will miss another first in their lives," Robyn Gogue said.

Corona firefighter John Deyoe was looking forward to a dinner date with his daughters and girlfriend, whom he hadn't seen in 10 days, but he had to cancel because of a last-minute work assignment.

"My heart dropped to my feet. It was like somebody punched me in the stomach," Deyoe said.

Such is the life of Southern California firefighter families at the height of the wildfire season, where one spouse – in most cases the husband and father – is off battling the flames, hopping from conflagration to conflagration, and the other is home alone for weeks at a time, mixing work, child care, bill paying and worrying.

Therefore, firefighter families say, it's important to write down plans in pencil, not pen, and to make the most of the time they have together.

Most municipal fire agencies allow their crews to be out for 14 days. Cal Fire crews can be extended to 21 days or more. A Riverside city crew fought the Sand fire in Santa Clarita, then the Pilot fire in the San Bernardino Mountains. Murrieta sent an engine from the Sand fire to the Soberanes fire in Monterey County and then to the Pilot. Long Beach sent 21 firefighters from the Soberanes to the Goose near Fresno. Just as a Los Angeles County engine fresh off the Soberanes rolled into a station in Duarte, it was dispatched to the Pilot.

And when an Orange County Fire Authority crew maxed out on its 14 days on the Soberanes, a bus with fresh replacements from OC showed up.

"You're married to a firefighter, and there are things you have to accept," said Kim Oakley, whose husband, Mark, is a battalion chief for Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department in Indio. She cares for their four children, including one who is autistic. Mark's absence, she said, "takes a toll for sure."

And then there are the firefighters who staff the stations in others' absence. In Cal Fire, those crews work three days in a row and have four days off. But if there aren't enough firefighters available, those three days can turn into seven. Those extended shifts, as well as their pay, are a source of contention for Cal Fire crews, who are planning a protest rally on Aug. 22 at the state Capitol.

Nevertheless, no firefighters interviewed for this story appeared ready to quit.

"I think it's the best job in the world," Deyoe said.

MAKING IT WORK

Wildfires are often fought in rural environments where cell and internet reception is spotty or non-existent, making communications with the homefront difficult.

Deyoe had just regained a cell signal and was nearing home after a long ride when his battalion chief radioed that the engine crew had been redirected to the Pilot fire. Deyoe called in the bad news.

"That night was the most difficult night of my career," said Deyoe, an 18-year veteran. His children were upset, "but they've lived their whole lives as fireman's kids, so they know."

Robyn Gogue plans to videotape her daughters' school debut Monday. If she can't connect with her husband via Facetime, she'll send videos by email or text message. Roy will text her when he's off the fire line. "I just need to know he's OK," his wife said.

Robyn is a full-time student, studying to be a nurse. Her mom occasionally provides free babysitting. When Roy is home, he sleeps the first day, and then the family goes out for frozen yogurt. The next day, Robyn and Roy will put away their cell phones and enjoy quiet time together in the back yard.

Danny Cook, a Cal Fire firefighter based in Lake Elsinore, drove eight hours to get home from the Sobaranes fire on Sunday to rejoin his wife, Jessie, who is 37 weeks pregnant with their second child. They've been married for six years and together for 10. He said when he's gone he talks with her or texts her, as much as the terrain allows.

Jessie said his absence can create stress on the family but that the key is to be flexible.

"I think that's what makes it work," she said. "Everything has to be able to be moved around. The only thing that is set in stone is that when he's home, it's family time."

Kailin DeMartio's husband, Noah, is a Cal Fire captain based in Garner Valley. They've been married 11 years, and they have children ages 13 and 9. He's been gone on five fires for 23 days, and she doesn't expect him home until mid-August.

"It's hard because when the kids get sick, I'm the only one at home. You're basically married but by yourself."

Other families say they get by with the help of friends, especially other fire wives. They get together, with the children, rather than stay at home.

Erin Fairfax left her job as a Cal Fire captain to take a job as a physician's assistant that gave her hours that allowed her to spend more time with their children ages 18, 13, and 2.

Her husband, Jason, is a captain who can be gone for weeks at a time from their home near Temecula leading inmates crews based in the Hemet area.

"I miss my job, but I'm home," Erin Fairfax said.

She joined a running group and has a new network of friends "so I'm not home twiddling my thumbs (wondering) when is Daddy coming home."

Amber Reinhold, a paramedic with AMR, says she notices changes in the behavior of her boys, 6 and 8, when her husband, Perris-based Matthew, is away on Cal Fire duty. He sleeps for a day when he returns but after that, they take the boys bike riding or to the park.

"Our family tries to make every day count because tomorrow is not guaranteed," she said.

DISSENT OVER PAY

Cal Fire families say they wish they had more money to count, as well.

They cite a 2014 state survey that shows Cal Fire total compensation lags behind 20 other firefighting agencies by 29.7 percent to 39.9 percent, depending on the job, and that base pay for those same jobs lags by an average of 86.5 percent to 91 percent.

Mike Alvarado, a Temecula-based Cal Fire firefighter, is married with three children and says he needs to work a handful of extra shifts each month to supplement his \$2,500 monthly take-home pay.

"I have never seen morale this low," Alvarado said.

Mike Lopez, president of Cal Fire Local 2881, which represents 6,000 members, said he hopes the Aug. 22 rally gets the attention of Gov. Jerry Brown.

"The pay is not commensurate of the job being performed," Lopez said.

Lynda Gledhill, a spokeswoman in the governor's office, declined to comment on negotiations.

Lopez also said the sometimes extended three-on/four-off shifts are a burden on firefighters.

"Cal Fire staffs their equipment by not letting members go home," he said.

The contention that firefighters are forced to work extra shifts has spawned a Facebook group named Forcey T Bear, a lampoon of the U.S. Forest Service's Smokey Bear campaign.

Cal Fire spokeswoman Janet Upton said the agency acknowledges the long hours but said the extra shifts are necessary to fill critical positions.

"It's a tool we use judiciously," she said.

Cal Fire received an additional \$103 million this fiscal year to pay for more staff and equipment, Upton said.

Contact the writer: brokos@scng.com

RELATED

[**Containment hits 64 percent in Pilot fire**](#)

[**7 steps to survive a wildfire, other disasters**](#)

[**Pilot fire triggers local emergency**](#)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

How crews on Pilot Fire are assisted by Esri mapping technology

Crews use ArcGIS software to map areas affected, inform public

By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

REDLANDS >> Crews working the front lines of wildfires have an additional tool to help them track incidents in real time, thanks to the mapping experts at Esri.

Esri uses GIS technology — the backbone of its Collector for ArcGIS app — to help create maps that allow crews to better inform the public of evacuations and other decisions made in response to a wildfire, said Chris “Fern” Ferner, a public safety/wildland fire technology specialist for Esri’s Disaster Response Program.

“Each fire, like the Pilot fire, is being responded to by an Instant Management Response Team which brings their own GIS staff trained to use the software,” she said.

Data, such as photos and videos, is collected and stored in the app, which was released in 2014. The app makes the data available faster than ever before since it works on- and offline, according to Esri.

Data added to the app while the user is offline is automatically synced when service is restored to the device carrying the software, [according to the company’s website](#).

In addition to fire response, the app is used for other disaster recovery missions, and in industries such as agriculture and utilities.

Prior to using the Redlands-based company’s ArcGIS programming, teams are trained so they can become self-sufficient. That, Ferner said, helps limit the amount of time taken away from response because those in the field are waiting on an Esri staff member.

“The local agencies, such as sheriff and fire, are responsible for evacuations and communication with these communities,” Ferner said.

Esri technology has been used to help with several wildfires in recent history, including the Station fire in the Angeles National Forest and the Oak Glen and Sawtooth Complex fires.

Many of the areas affected by these fires have limited access to the internet, so teams are trained to use mobile devices and other means to sync data from the field.

“I saw some of this going on when we were having to send more people to the front lines,” said Bob Ruschman, a member of Esri’s media team. “But what’s literally happening is we taught people how to ‘fish’ and be self-sufficient in the field.”

These advancements help ensure information is updated in a timely fashion.

“It used to be that data would come in the evening and maps go out in the morning,” Ferner said, “but that is not the case anymore.”

By [Charity Lindsey](#)[Print Page](#)

August 10, 2016 5:42PM

Evacuated animals find solace at fairgrounds

VICTORVILLE — Walking backwards, a young volunteer kept a brisk pace matched to a stallion's steady stroll, gently speaking words of encouragement as the animal laboriously lifted each heavy hoof from the dirt.

The walk does more than stretch the horse's legs — the exercise also eases tense nerves caused by being abruptly torn away from its home.

The Pilot Fire, which has grown to more than 7,800 acres since it began on Sunday east of Silverwood Lake, drove thousands of residents and their animals to evacuate their homes. To aid pets and livestock from fire-threatened areas, a small army of volunteers has been stationed at the High Desert Event Center since Sunday night.

The volunteer animal coordinator, Dave Gross, a local landscaper, said that caring for the animals is about more than feeding them and giving them a place to sleep. In the midst of an evacuation, the concoction of thick smoke and high stress is a noxious recipe for sick animals, Gross explained.

"These are animals that came from the thick of the smoke," Gross said, standing amid haystacks and horse stalls at the fairgrounds. At their peak, the volunteers, who partner with San Bernardino County Animal Control, had a total of 120 animals under their care on Wednesday, from horses and goats to dogs and chickens, and even a llama. "Their owners have entrusted us with their animals and our volunteers are here day and night taking care of them."

Finding volunteers has been no challenge, however.

"We've just been inundated with donations," Gross said. "We have 50 plus volunteers today alone...You'd be blown away at how much help the community is providing — just by the power of Facebook."

The "PILOT FIRE" Facebook group which Gross' wife, Kirsten, is an administrator for, has grown to more than 3,300 members in just the time since the fire began. Along with sharing fire updates, the group has garnered an abundance of community support, with local residents and businesses offering donations or volunteer time.

Gross said that almost every animal feed store in the High Desert has been donating — "pellets, grain, haystacks" — all of them telling him to call if more is needed.

"Not to mention all of the local restaurants donating," Gross said.

"Dave, do we want Jersey Mike's donation for lunch or dinner tomorrow?" a woman volunteer said as she walked up to Gross, holding a hand over her cell phone. "Oh right — we have Papa Johns set up for dinner." Uncovering her phone, she said "Lunchtime is great."

Gross said he'd just met the volunteer that morning.

"You look in here at everyone helping out, and it's really pretty amazing," Gross said. "These people don't know each other. But we're all here for the same reason."

Gross said that although animal control has another center for evacuated animals at the Devore Animal Shelter, the fairgrounds was a more convenient spot for most evacuees.

"The last thing you want to do, especially with a horse, is wait until the last minute," Gross said. "A lot of people bringing their animals here are being proactive and that's what's best."

Adversely, some of the evacuated pets were seemingly in much less caring hands.

A miniature pony's blonde mane shaded its eyes as her head hung low, awkwardly walking along on misshapen hooves as a volunteer guided her to a stall.

"That little horse over there — I've got animal control checking in on her," a volunteer told Gross. The horse's hooves were overgrown, likely as a result of neglect. Gross said other animals showed signs of abuse or neglect also, including some horses with protruding rib cages.

"It's likely some of them won't be going back to their same owners," Gross said. "Sometimes it takes a tragedy to turn things around for an animal's life."

As of Wednesday evening, the fairgrounds was down to about 40 animals left in the volunteers' care. Gross said they are aiming to have them all cleared by noon Thursday, and those whose owners haven't yet picked them up by then would be transferred to the Devore shelter. The excess donations of animal supplies are being stored for the event of another emergency, while food donations from restaurants are being donated to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and other emergency responders of the fire.



Volunteers feed a carrot to a horse displaced by the Pilot Fire at an animal shelter on Tuesday evening at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds in Victorville. Jose Huerta, Daily Press

Charity Lindsey may be contacted at clindsey@vvdailypress.com or 760-951-6245. Follow her on twitter @DP_Charity.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160810/NEWS/160819975>

[Print Page](#)

By [Shea Johnson](#)[Print Page](#)

August 11, 2016 11:03AM

Public safety employees receive 9 percent raises

SAN BERNARDINO — The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors approved nine-percent raises for more than 1,500 public safety employees, a move that the workers' union Wednesday described as "the beginning of a step in the right direction."

The contracts approved Tuesday come after roughly 18 months of negotiations that steered into an impasse in December. Supervisors ultimately OK'd exact proposals for employees and management that had been outlined by an arbitrator.

For 1,547 sheriff's deputies, detectives and District Attorney investigators, they'll receive a 3 percent across-the-board wage increase effective last week, with identical bumps occurring next year and in 2018. Across-the-board wage increases for 253 sheriff's sergeants, lieutenants and supervising DA investigators add to 8 percent over three years.

While Safety Employees Benefit Association representatives appeared pleased that top county officials had formally addressed what the union calls "a vast disparity in pay" compared to similar counties — reflected in high turnover rates and salaries that had been 14 to 27 percent less — they also made it clear they sought more inroads in future negotiations.

"We know the quality of work our deputies perform merits a larger increase than the contracts that were just approved," said SEBA spokeswoman Lolita Harper, adding that the deals "still leave us below average."

First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood said the contract approvals were "earned" by law enforcement.

"The demographic shift and impacts in retirements, the competition to hire the best and retain the best," Lovingood said, "is going to require that we continue to be forward-thinking in how we're going to attract and retain all employees."

He also noted that the board has devoted efforts to county employees for sacrifices they've made over several years during the county's fiscal recovery. In recent years, the county has operated under budget, funded retirements, upgraded infrastructure and pumped reserves to the tune of \$420 million, or 14.6 percent of locally funded appropriation.

But it's also that aggressive savings that SEBA officials say have come at the expense of its members as they forfeited raises.

"The law enforcement profession in general is reaching crisis levels in regard to staffing," Harper said, "and we must ensure public safety personnel remain a top priority."

The approved contracts also call for eliminating the first three steps of the deputy sheriff range, resulting in a 14-step range; increasing the fixed dollar bi-weekly Medical Premium Subsidy in each year of the agreement; and increasing annual uniform allowance to \$1,200.

For higher-ups, the deal also adjusts the administration of on-call pay and puts into place two days of paid bereavement leave, among other provisions.

SEBA members turned out to vote on the contracts in "record-breaking numbers," officials said.

"(They) took the initiative," said Laren Leichliter, SEBA's president, "and let their voices be heard."

The deals will result in additional costs to the county of roughly \$8.7 million for this fiscal year, \$15.3 million next year and \$20.5 million in FY 2018-19, according to a county staff report.

Formal negotiations for the next contracts are expected to begin in 2019.

Shea Johnson may be reached at 760-955-5368 or SJohnson@VVDailyPress.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DP_Shea.



The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors recently approved nine-percent raises for more than 1,500 public safety employees. File photo, Daily Press

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Joshua Tree residents battling latest solar project proposal

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Joshua Tree residents are protesting a proposed 20-megawatt photovoltaic solar farm at the decommissioned Roy Williams Airport in Joshua Tree, which spans 150 acres.

Joshua Tree Solar Farm, LLC. proposes to build a solar farm on the 115-acre site at Sunfair Road and Two Mile Road, which is zoned for industrial use. The developer is proposing to build fixed-tilt solar modules, between 7 and 10 feet in height, inverter stations and an access road to the facility.

In their continual fight to block solar development in the tourist-driven High Desert locale, home to Joshua Tree National Park, more than a dozen residents spoke against the project during a nearly 4-hour public hearing Tuesday.

The hearing was continued until 1 p.m. Tuesday because two San Bernardino County supervisors, Josie Gonzales and Robert Lovingood, had to excuse themselves due to other commitments, leaving a lack of quorum to vote on the proposal.

Three environmental groups appealed the county Planning Commission's April 21 approval of the project. The groups are: Coalition for Responsible Solar Environmental Justice Alliance, SoCal Environmental Justice Alliance, Joshua Tree Community for Responsible Solar & Individuals.

Opponents argue an environmental impact report should have been drafted and that the project would have an adverse impact on the environment, mainly air quality due to high levels of dust that would be created during construction. Additionally, the project would negatively impact area wildlife, including the desert tortoise, and other biological resources.

As for quality of life, residents opposing the project say it will create excess noise and traffic during construction, and when done the solar farm will negatively affect the community's aesthetic and views of pristine desert landscape.

"We have identified significant, not trivial, impacts," said Christina Caro, who spoke Tuesday on behalf of the Coalition for Responsible Solar Environmental Justice Alliance.

Developer Jess Maline said he has been building renewable energy projects in the county for more than 20 years without complaint, including the Morongo Unified School District. His attorney, Zachary Walton, said the residents' concerns were based on unsubstantiated opinion rather than fact.

Walton said resident concerns about the depletion of groundwater due to the project are unfounded because the project will only use about two acre feet of groundwater annually.

"This project simply does not require a lot of water," Walton said.

Joshua Tree resident Tom O'Key equated the project to a "large, industrial scale project" that would negatively impact the Sunfair community north of the project.

Resident Peggy Lee Kennedy is worried about the dust, and said she is a “sensitive receptor” to it.

“This is a rural residential area. We don’t want to breathe this dust,” Kennedy said.

But according to a staff report prepared for county supervisors by the Land Use Services Department, “there are no potentially significant air quality impacts under CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) associated with the project,” and the developer has implemented a dust control plan.

The hearing will continue at 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Board of Supervisors chambers, on the ground floor of the San Bernardino County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., in San Bernardino.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/environment-and-nature/20160810/joshua-tree-residents-battling-latest-solar-project-proposal>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Joshua Tree's plea: Say no to solar farm

By Leah Sanson, Hi-Desert Star | Posted: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 9:48 pm

JOSHUA TREE — “We will be a sacrifice zone,” Rebecca Unger said, warning of Joshua Tree’s future with solar farms. Joshua Tree community members gathered at the Bob Burke Community Government Center Tuesday to telecommunicate with San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, asking the board to reject a new solar farm proposal.

Residents convened to share their opinions on the Joshua Tree Solar Farm, which may be developed on the grounds of the old Roy Williams Airport.

The room at the community government center was filled with citizens. So filled, in fact, that people were directed to an overflow room. All were looking for their voices to be heard on the solar farm.

County planning staff recommended that the board of supervisors uphold the planning commission’s earlier decision to approve the project.

“It will have a very low profile,” Terri Rahhal, planning director, told the board. “Video simulation does not seem to show the mountain view being obstructed at all.”

Rahhal also said an analyst searched the surrounding area and could not find a public trail or campground where the solar farm could be seen.

The project will have no “significant impact to the visual quality of the area,” he stated.

Joshua Tree residents disagreed. One community member said she went to the Joshua Tree National Park entrance on her lunch break and took photos looking out into town that showed that the solar farm would be seen from the entrance.

“If this building had glass walls, I would be able to see the solar project from right here,” Joshua Tree community member Joseph Fairbanks stated.

A representative for Joshua Tree Solar Farm LLC, the NextEra corporate affiliate proposing the project, stood by the design. “It blends very naturally with the landscape,” Jess Melin said.

“It is not the only feature going to be disturbing the landscape,” Melin added.

The appellants who challenged the planning commission’s approval contended they were not sent certain documents and Christina Caro even said she was not informed of the hearing date until a couple of weeks ago.



Voice from Joshua Tree

Joseph Fairbanks addresses the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Aug. 9.

Richard Lutringer said the Joshua Tree area is one of the most recognized tourist destinations in San Bernardino County and argued the solar farm will have a detrimental affect on the landscape and the feel of the surrounding community.

One presenter also was annoyed that at points during the meeting, only two supervisors were present to hear what Joshua Tree residents had to say, and were conversing amongst themselves as well.

The meeting ran longer than expected and the board of supervisors will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday to hear closing remarks and make a decision on the appeal.



 [Click to Print](#) or Select 'Print' in your browser menu to print this document.

Page printed from: <http://www.globest.com/sites/carrerossenfeld/2016/08/10/san-bernardino-county-is-ripe-for-two-kinds-of-retail/>

San Bernardino County is Ripe for Two Kinds of Retail

| By [Carrie Rossenfeld](#)

Published: August 10, 2016



Lewis: "We have a new wave of users, especially focused on eating, drinking and creating a social experience."

UPLAND, CA— While San Bernardino County is adding necessity retailers like grocery and drug stores, the region's consumers are also thirsty for experiential retail and hip new restaurants, **Lewis Group of Cos.**' EVP **Randall Lewis** tells GlobeSt.com. The firm is currently working on a variety of retail and **mixed-use** projects in this market—a few of considerable size. In advance of **ICSC Western Conference** in San Diego, we sat down

with Lewis for an exclusive chat about some of their projects, retail **development** opportunities in the county and what's down the road for this growing market.

GlobeSt.com: Please update us on the latest retail/mixed-use projects that you are currently pursuing.

Lewis: We're doing a project in Rialto, CA, called **Renaissance Marketplace** that will be, at buildout, close to 500,000 square feet. It's part of a mixed-use, **master-planned community** called Renaissance that will include residential and office uses. We have already confirmed leases with Cinemark Theatres and 24 Hour Fitness. We hope to start vertical **construction** in March 2017 with a grand opening before March 2018.

We are also pursuing two new interesting mixed-use projects that are located close to 4th and Haven at the intersection of Ontario, CA, and Rancho Cucamonga, CA. The two projects are **Empire Lakes**, a golf course **redevelopment**, and **Piemonte**. Those two communities combined will encompass 3,500 dwelling units and a lot of office since there is already good residential and daytime population. We're looking at some different kinds of retail there that may include restaurants; cool retailers like yoga studios, bike and coffee shops; and a grocery store. It will be a variety of exciting tenants.



Rialto Marketplace will be close to 500,000 square feet upon completion.

GlobeSt.com: What is the greatest opportunity in the county when it comes to new development? What trends are most important?

Lewis: For a long time San Bernardino County has been underserved in retail losing shopping dollars to other counties. For that reason, a strong trend is in increasing the sheer quantity of retail so it's not underserved. We've also recognized that the region is underserved in the kind of retail that reflects the demographic changes in the County. There is clearly a desire for experiential retail and new and different kinds of restaurants and services. While there's still a demand for very traditional retail, such as grocery and drug stores, gas stations and soft-goods retailers, we're nowhere near saturation there, and there's a demand for more. But with population growth, there's also demand for different types of retail. The population has grown in **Millennials** and **Baby Boomers**. They still want services, but they're saying, "Can you bring me different things, like a bike shop and a brew pub?" These are words we didn't hear five years ago in San Bernardino County. We have a new wave of users, especially when it comes to eating, drinking and social preferences.

GlobeSt.com: How has population growth and job growth impacted retail success in the County?

Lewis: The Inland Empire has definitely recovered from the recession, and retailers are recognizing that now. They see there's more spending power here, more daytime population and more niche opportunity because of

the specialized categories desired by the general population as well as the ethnic population growth—primarily Hispanic and Asian.

GlobeSt.com: What new development opportunities do you see for the future?

Lewis: Quite a bit. There are more opportunities for retail that go beyond shopping. Retail can be the center of a neighborhood or community, as a **placemaking** element in a larger marketplace and also as part of a lifestyle component. A cool shopping center can build the identity of an area. I see that as very different from retail as a lifestyle component—a place where consumers go because the store brands understand their lifestyle and capture what they want to do.

Because of our company's great experience in the **residential** sector, we see what a strategic tool retail has become in attracting and retaining new population growth. Historically, consumers asked, "Where is the most affordable house or the best school district?" While both of these still matter, we're now hearing more and more, "What kind of retail is nearby, and is it the kind of retail I want?" Retail is more than just shopping. It's about branding and fulfilling lifestyle opportunities. There's still a demand for good old favorites, but there's also interest in new uses.

GlobeSt.com: How is multifamily growth impacting retail?

Lewis: We're seeing higher-income renters out here in many parts of San Bernardino County and these renters are bringing a lot more shopping power. As renters they don't have as much of a cost obligation for landscaping and furniture, so they have more discretionary income. This is a big shift. While previously consumers didn't have excess dollars for retail because they were buying a house, we find that those who do choose to rent have more available income.

GlobeSt.com: How are the wants and needs of younger generations impacting how you plan for retail?

Lewis: We have a few jobs as a retail developer. First, we have to make sure our tenants are successful. We do all we can to understand our retailers' business and the shopping patterns and habits of their customers. Second, we focus on the customers. We know our retailers are competing with the **Internet**, so we're trying to create a more interesting space. We consider the tenant mix to find tenants that are most popular with new customers and ways we can communicate with them. We're even looking at transportation, as in how will they get to our **shopping centers**? Will they use cars, bikes or walk? We're also looking at providing more shade and gathering spaces. As a landlord, you want to find ways for consumers to linger longer and go to more stores, so we're trying to spend more time on **wayfinding**. This way we make it as easy as possible and as desirable as possible for people to stay longer and explore more.

Copyright 2016. ALM Media Properties, LLC. All rights reserved.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Half of promised state parks, including San Bernardino, unfinished

San Bernardino facility should be open in fall, officials say

By Alison Noon, The Associated Press

Wednesday, August 10, 2016



SAN BERNARDINO >> A decade after California voters were promised \$400 million worth of parks in some of the state's poorest neighborhoods, an Associated Press review finds fewer than half of the 126 projects that received the money have been built, as Democratic lawmakers push to add another \$1 billion to the program.

State officials say the long wait is the result of strong oversight, but people waiting for the parks see only empty lots.

One of those promised parks is in San Bernardino, at the intersection of E and Ninth streets.

After determining that the area was "severely underparked" and approving the application for \$5 million to build a park there, state officials said the city's 2012 bankruptcy filing jeopardized its ability to maintain the park for 30 years, as required.

The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District then stepped forward to take responsibility for maintenance, but some city officials distrusted the details. Both sides agreed on a compromise in 2013 — a board composed of city and water district members — and this March, a groundbreaking symbolically started construction.

The park was initially expected to be open roughly by October or November, but that has been pushed back to January or February, according to water district and San Bernardino city officials. The city also is still gathering petitions to name the park.

"The city's bankruptcy filing hindered the initial process, but we are very pleased to have found a solution and teamed up with the entities now leading the process," said Monica Lagos, a city spokeswoman.

The city is excited to see the amenities coming to the neighborhood.

"The park will be a great upgrade to the E Street corridor and foster a healthy environment for kids and adults," Lagos said.

Councilwoman Virginia Marquez, who represents the area adjacent to the park, said she's looking forward to a public meeting about it at 6 p.m. Aug. 18 on the west side of E Street, between Ninth and 10th streets, and to an expected opening sometime after that.

"I see them working on it every day," Marquez said Wednesday. "It's a huge impact, not only to that particular part of the city but the city as a whole. It'll revive that general area and provide a great park. It has all the features of a brand-new park, and since we got a state grant, we won't pay for it."

The 2006 voter initiative funded two parks in the San Bernardino Valley — the one on E Street, and another in Grand Terrace off Barton Road and Grand Terrace Boulevard.

The Grand Terrace park is technically incomplete, because \$20,000 of the \$1.8 million grant is unspent, but it's been open since 2013, said City Manager G. Harold Duffey.

"All our parks are monitored by video camera, but we're trying to get solar power so we can monitor that park," Duffey said Wednesday.

Grand Terrace Fitness Park has been a boon, Duffey said.

"One of the things that happened in Grand Terrace is that the west side of town, across from the (215) freeway, there weren't any real amenities," he said. "This park is a great park for the community. It's got a tennis court, nature trail, a beautiful entryway."

Other parks aren't so close to completion.

About 54 percent of voters approved Proposition 84 in 2006, allowing California to sell \$5.4 billion in bonds and distribute the money to water, parks and conservation projects. The initiative promised \$400 million to create parks in neighborhoods without them or to expand overused parks in low-income neighborhoods.

Based on guidelines that prioritized the neediest communities, the state parks department chose 126 parks and recreation center projects and awarded them \$396 million from a pool of 900 applicants that requested \$3 billion, data provided by the department show.

Parks pledged to disadvantaged communities in Los Angeles County account for one-third of all the projects and one-third of those that are incomplete, the data show. The rest are scattered across the state.

The state, local and nonprofit groups putting the money to work have broken no promises in taking a leisurely pace, because the original ballot measure made no commitments about how long it would take to build the parks.

The regulatory hurdles largely blamed for the delays are ubiquitous in California and make it extremely difficult to build a house, let alone a public park, in under a decade, said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

"It should not take that long," Coupal said.

The state parks department awarded the last dollars in 2013, but most recipients couldn't immediately put the money to use. Municipal boards had to sanction projects led by local parks departments, a process the state tried to expedite with fill-in-the-blank authorization forms. Accommodating new projects meant some agencies and organizations had to rearrange staff.

"We're building the parks as fast as we can. There's just multiple things we're doing at the same time," said Tori Kjer, Los Angeles program manager at the Trust for Public Land, a national organization that's been building parks since 1972. It received funding to build eight of the California projects, four of which are complete.

It often took a year to finalize grant agreements, organize a team and select contractors, Kjer and other project coordinators said. They typically spend another year designing the project and getting permits, and additional time to engage the community in the hope that residents use and maintain the space in perpetuity. Then construction can begin.

"Everyone wants their park right away, but projects of this scale are huge projects — we're not talking about just replacing a bench," said Jennifer Isacoff, national operations director at the Trust for Public Land. "It's really important to us to design a planning process that will give a community its voice."

The projects were given generous deadlines to facilitate oversight, officials say. Some of the incomplete parks must be finished by 2017, but most will be considered “on time” if they’re built by July 2019.

“A lot of these kinds of safeguards of planning and permitting and regulating are important, but make it so that doing anything in California takes time,” said Jon Christensen, an environmental humanities researcher at UCLA who studied the program earlier this year.

Christensen found in a May report at least 90 percent of the parks funding has been dedicated to needy communities, as voters intended.

Democratic Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, of Coachella, is pushing the Legislature to place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to dedicate another \$1 billion to the same program for new or expanded parks.

Staff Writer Ryan Hagen contributed to this report.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160810/half-of-promised-state-parks-including-san-bernardino-unfinished>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailypbulletin.com>)

Drinking water taste funny? Blame the Silverwood Lake algae bloom

By Stephanie K. Baer, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Thursday, August 11, 2016



The same algae bloom that has made [Silverwood Lake unsafe for recreation](#) has also caused taste and odor problems in the tap water for some Southern California residents, but water officials say that water is safe to drink.

Although both water quality issues are being caused by [cyanobacteria, commonly known as blue-green algae](#), the toxin that prompted a no-swimming advisory at the San Bernardino County reservoir last week was only detected on the lake's surface and not in the water coming out of household faucets.

“There’s two issues going on in terms of these algae blooms. There’s a recreation component and a drinking water component and they’re very different,” said Jim Green, manager of water system operations at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

‘An aesthetic issue’

In addition to producing a dangerous cyanotoxin that sickens people and animals, the bloom at Silverwood, which is a storage facility for the State Water Project, is producing two nuisance compounds — geosmin and 2-methylisoborneol, or MIB — that make the water taste musty and smell earthy but do not pose a health risk.

“It’s completely an aesthetic issue,” Green said.

Although microcystin, the most common cyanotoxin in the U.S., was detected at unsafe levels in the swimming areas at the lake, very low levels have been detected in the raw water collected by the district and the toxin has not showed up in the district’s finished water.

Water treatment processes are [generally effective at getting rid of cyanotoxins](#) and taste and odor compounds.

“The technology we employ and other agencies employ are very effective at oxidizing and removing these constituents,” Green said.

Few complaints

Not all people can smell or taste the nuisance compounds and the district, which provides water to more than 20 public agencies serving millions of people in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties, has only received five or six complaints about them over the last 10 days, Green said.

“Frankly, we did not get a lot of complaints,” he said, adding that taste and odor issues are not uncommon.

Zachery Roman said his wife first noticed a mildew-like scent coming from the faucets in their Covina home a few weeks ago.

“What it smelled like was mold — if you left a towel out and it was wet and soggy,” Roman said. “I was told that hopefully it will go away.”

A couple of his neighbors noticed the earthy smell, too, he said, and even though water officials told him the water is safe to drink, he and his family have been relying on bottled water “just to be on the safe side.”

Bloom is declining

Customers from Azusa to Fontana may have been impacted by the taste and odor issue, which appears to be on the decline. On Thursday, the state Department of Water Resources applied a copper sulfate treatment to the lake to kill the cyanobacteria and as a result, the level of taste and odor compounds decreased.

Green said test results showed there were 10 nanograms per liter of MIB and 4 nanograms per liter of geosmin detected in the district’s raw water on Monday.

“Last week they were higher — in the order of 20 and 10 nanograms per liter,” he said. “Any time you’re above 10 nanograms per liter of MIB and geosmin, some residents can pick that up.”

Green said it could take a few more days for the taste and odor issues to go away.

Despite the lower levels of the nuisance compounds, the no-swimming advisory remained in effect Tuesday. All water activity, including swimming, wading, boating and waterskiing, is prohibited by the state until further notice.

Correction: This story previously incorrectly identified the water supplies where the taste and odor compounds were detected. The compounds were found in the water district’s raw water supplies.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/environment-and-nature/20160811/drinking-water-taste-funny-blame-the-silverwood-lake-algae-bloom>

© 2016 Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Where not working pays well — Upland City Hall

By The Editorial Board, San Bernardino County Sun

Wednesday, August 10, 2016



The city of Upland pays a lot of its top hires for not working.

The latest — as of this writing (who knows what might happen after our deadline) — is the still-new fire chief, Paul Segalla, who took over the Fire Department (which is operated jointly with Montclair's) in November.

Segalla was placed on administrative leave Monday morning by Interim City Manager Marty Thouvenell, who was new on the job after replacing Rod Butler, who was fired as city manager the week before.

Later Monday, the City Council approved paying Butler just under \$23,000 a month — \$206,997 total — to stay out of City Hall for the next nine months.

Thouvenell, who's back for a second stint as Upland's city manager — he's also a former police chief and fire chief for the city — will take a cut-rate \$72,000 or so to do the top job over a six-month period. (Don't feel too sorry for him; he pulls down a \$154,000 pension too.)

Meanwhile, Segalla will draw pay without working at his \$161,196 annual clip until he's fired or reinstated.

In January 2011, the City Council put City Manager Robb Quincey on paid leave — at his astronomical \$460,000 annually in salary and benefits — and then fired him in May. To council members' credit, they fired the ethically challenged Quincey for cause, so they didn't have to give him a big farewell payout.

That same year, beleaguered Police Chief Steve Adams was out on medical leave from January until September, when he took medical retirement.

Way back in 2005, the council forced out City Manager Michael Milhiser, but gave him a one-year "consultant" contract contingent on his not saying anything negative about the city for a year. (It was never clear that he did any consulting.) At the same time, the council gave Thouvenell an \$80,000 "golden handshake" as he retired in protest of Milhiser's firing.

There have been others, but those are among the highlights of Upland's top brass getting paid for not working.

We anticipate Thouvenell will work hard as interim manager to dig Upland out of its precarious fiscal condition, so we're as happy he's in place as the residents who welcomed him Monday night appeared to be.

Let's hope that when he departs, the new mayor and the council as reconstituted after the November election will make a solid hire for city manager — someone they'll pay to work, but never have to pay not to work.

8/11/2016

Where not working pays well — Upland City Hall

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20160810/where-not-working-pays-well-upland-city-hall>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailypbulletin.com>)

Upland faces its most serious economic challenge yet: Martin Thouvenell

By Martin Thouvenell

Thursday, August 11, 2016



For all of the steps Upland has taken in recent years to stabilize its city finances, our ability to maintain a quality of life the community expects and deserves is up against its most serious economic challenge ever.

Part of it is the nature of the beast. The business of running a municipality is more complicated than ever, as traditional revenue streams have not kept pace with the cost of providing essential services. Toss in years of deferred maintenance on streets and infrastructure, the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression and the loss of redevelopment funding, and it's a rare city indeed that doesn't have tough decisions to make.

In Upland, all of this is compounded by factors both beyond our control — the fact that we're largely built-out, for instance — and some very much within our ability to fix. As an example, we can't continue to go down the path of believing we can cut our way to prosperity. There simply aren't enough dollars to make up the gap between the money we get from property and sales taxes — the main sources of our revenue — and the cost of providing services. And for

all the talk of pensions being a financial burden, as cities such as San Bernardino and others have learned the hard way, eliminating them does not work.

Fiscal solvency, therefore, is dependent on finding new revenue streams — one of those tough decisions we're going to need to make as a community. It's not a new story. A few years back, I was a member of the Fiscal Task Force appointed by the city, and among the key recommendations we made was to consider a sales tax increase.

Other task force recommendations included potential changes in the way the water system and fire department are managed, up to an including outsourcing or merging operations with other agencies. That, too, is a tough decision, though as we've seen with our library operations and trash hauling — both of which are managed by private companies — it can be done.

In many ways, the outlook is even more dire than it was when the task force was convened. The deferred maintenance costs on our infrastructure alone — streets, trees, water and sewer lines — could run in the tens of millions of dollars. The Police Department is down 16 officers from when I served as police chief, even though our city has more people than ever.

All of this impacts our quality of life and the safety and well-being of our community. In 2015, Upland recorded a 16 percent increase in property crimes and a 32 percent increase in violent crimes. Cutting the budget even more will not fix that.

Which brings us back to pensions — and the convenient target they've become for cities in financial trouble. Few cities were in more trouble than San Bernardino, which tried to cut pensions as part of its bankruptcy proceedings. In 2012, the city went so far as to stop making its legally required pension payments to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).

What San Bernardino learned, however, was that eliminating pensions made it virtually impossible to remain competitive in the job market — to recruit and retain qualified employees, especially in the police department. As a result, San Bernardino — the city with arguably the best case of any in California to wipe its pension slate clean — ultimately agreed to repay CalPERS, with interest and penalties.

This doesn't mean that moving forward, public employees won't need to contribute more of their own funds to their pension plans. That's already happening across the state. But to pretend that we in Upland can wipe our slate clean, and eliminate millions of dollars in existing pension liability each year, is just that — pretending.

The fact is, we need to be more resourceful, more innovative and more willing than ever to make difficult choices.

Martin Thouvenell is acting city manager of Upland.

URL: <http://www.dailybulletin.com/opinion/20160811/upland-faces-its-most-serious-economic-challenge-yet-martin-thouvenell>

© 2016 Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (<http://www.dailybulletin.com>)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

It's Zinfandel grape harvest time in Fontana

By Penny Arévalo, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, August 10, 2016



FONTANA >> The workers arrive early to a field without a street address — the grape harvest has begun.

- Photos: [The 2016 grape harvest begins](#)

The 2016 grape harvest began Monday and is expected to last several weeks, the start of a process that ends with a bottle of zinfandel.

The Galleano family has grown zinfandel in the historic Cucamonga Valley for more than 80 years. Cucamonga Valley is home to some of California's oldest vines and remains an important region to California viticulture heritage, according to Domenic Galleano.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/business/20160810/its-zinfandel-grape-harvest-time-in-fontana>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Redlands Bicycle Classic announces move to May

Committee OKs request from USA Cycling to streamline national calendar

By Gabriel Rizk, *The Press-Enterprise*

Thursday, August 11, 2016



This time around, the wait for the return of the Redlands Bicycle Classic will be just a bit longer.

The organizing committee for the longest running professional stage race in the United States announced Wednesday that its 33rd edition will be held May 3-7, 2017, nearly a full month later on the calendar than last year's race that ran April 6-10.

According to an RBC press release, the move was made in response to a request from the USA Cycling Pro Road Tour in order to streamline its six-month schedule of events held throughout the country.

"We are excited to partner with USA Cycling and several other races to craft a schedule that will benefit the entire cycling community, particularly the teams who travel across the country to participate in the Pro Road Tour calendar," RBC president Marc Shaw said in the release.

With this scheduling change, the five-day stage race will serve as a lead-in domestic stage race prior to the Amgen Tour of California, which typically runs in mid- to late May.

"The Redlands Bicycle Classic is an American cycling treasure and has long been an essential part of the fabric of elite cycling in this country," USA Cycling CEO Derek Bouchard-Hall said in the release. "It now takes on even greater importance in 2017 as it leads into the Amgen Tour of California. The world's best riders will be privileged to race on the roads of the beautiful Redlands area in preparation for (Amgen)."

The format of the RBC will not be altered from last season. The 2017 installment will once again include a time trial, a circuit race in the city of Highland, a road race in Yucaipa with an Oak Glen finish, and the final weekend in Redlands with downtown criterium and the Sunset road race, the release said.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/sports/20160811/redlands-bicycle-classic-announces-move-to-may>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

« [TWENTYNINE PALMS WOMAN ARRESTED AFTER HITTING MARINE CORPS BASE GATE GUARD WITH HER VEHICLE](#)

[COMMUNITY BACK-TO-SCHOOL DAY IN JOSHUA TREE TOMORROW](#) »

IN TWENTYNINE PALMS, NATURAL GAS PLAN FOR INDIAN COVE, FIRE STATION TURNOVER

By Z107.7 News, on August 11th, 2016

About 50 residents of the Indian Cove area in Southwestern Twentynine Palms met in an informal meeting at City Hall Wednesday afternoon. The informational gathering was called by City Manager Frank Luckino to determine if there was enough interest in the community to begin the process to eventually bring in natural gas. Luckino explained that the city could facilitate the formation of assessment districts to first build the infrastructure to bring gas lines to property lines, then another to bring natural gas service into individual properties. Luckino's proposal was to take the entire cost of the project, finance it through the assessment districts, and then amortize the costs for the vital infrastructure improvement out over 10-15 years to the 453 affected properties on their property tax bill. After a lively and civil question-and-answer session with Luckino and Debra McGarry of Southern California Gas, it was determined there was enough positive interest from Indian Cove property owners to gather more financial and engineering information to proceed. In other City of Twentynine Palms news, this morning at 8:30 a.m. Mayor Dan Mintz will formally hand over the Adobe Road Fire Station keys to County Fire. Significant improvements to the historic Fire Station have been completed as part of Project Phoenix, a major project designed to significantly improve the downtown area of the city.

August 11th, 2016 | Tags: [morongo basin](#), [san bernardino county](#), [twentynine palms](#) | Category: [Local News](#), [Top Story](#)

Redlands Daily Facts (<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com>)

San Bernardino man who lost leg in Redlands accident awarded \$46 million

By John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

SAN BERNARDINO >> A San Bernardino man who lost his left leg and spleen after being hit by a Nissan parts delivery truck in Redlands in 2013 was awarded \$46 million in damages Tuesday, according to the Newport Beach-based legal firm that represented him.

Faustino Solorio, 53, of San Bernardino was landscaping a Redlands roadside Sept. 10, 2013, when Gunnar Ayala, a delivery driver for Nissan of San Bernardino, turned right and struck Solorio, a Robinson Calcagnie news release states. The impact thrust Solorio through the windshield of Ayala's car, which caused injuries that required the removal of his left leg and spleen.

During the two-week trial, Solorio's attorneys argued that Ayala "was negligent while in the course and scope of his job at the dealership," the news release states.

Attorneys representing the dealership argued that "Ayala was an independent contractor, and that the company was not liable for his actions," the news release states.

The jury took less than two hours to reach a unanimous verdict that Nissan was liable for \$46 million, broken down into \$2 million in future economic damages, \$6 million in past economic damages and \$38 million in non-economic damages, the news release states.

URL: <http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/general-news/20160810/san-bernardino-man-who-lost-leg-in-redlands-accident-awarded-46-million>

© 2016 Redlands Daily Facts (<http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com>)

[PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Employees Share Experiences, Advice from 2015 Terrorist Attack

Public information officials talk to Santa Barbara County leaders about keeping public informed during fast-moving, worst-case scenario



From left, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department social media specialist Brittany Rios, Sgt. Vicki Cervantes and Lt. Brad Toms shared their experiences about working during the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist attack that left 14 people dead and 22 seriously wounded. The trio presented a lecture with photos of the crime scene to a small group of Santa Barbara County officials Thursday. (Brooke Holland / Noozhawk photo)

By Brooke Holland, Noozhawk Staff Writer | [@NoozhawkNews](#) | July 31, 2016 | 11:00 p.m.

While the hours-long manhunt was underway for the suspects in the December 2015 [San Bernardino terrorist attack](#) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_San_Bernardino_attack) , the [San Bernardino](#)

County Sheriff's Department (<http://cms.sbccounty.gov/sheriff/home.aspx>) was determined to respond in real-time and to use social media to address the crisis quickly.

"Twitter (<https://twitter.com/sbcountysheriff>) information was extremely important," Cindy Bachman, the department's public information officer, explained to a small group of Santa Barbara County officials last week. "It saved us. We needed to get the information out timely and accurately."

Fourteen people were killed and 22 were seriously injured in the shooting and attempted bombing at the Inland Regional Center, (<http://inlandrc.org>) where county Public Health Department (<http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/publichealth/>) employees were having a combination training and Christmas party.

The ISIS (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29052144>) -inspired attack by Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, ended in a shootout after nearly two dozen police officers cornered the couple on a residential street not far from the massacre scene. Both suspects were killed in a hail of gunfire.

"It was a horrific event," Bachman recalled. "We hadn't seen anything like this since the Sept. 11 attacks (<http://911digitalarchive.org>) — that many people killed by a terrorist attack."

On Thursday, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (<http://cosb.countyofsb.org/phd/>) hosted a seminar designed to give more than 30 attendees a chance to hear firsthand how San Bernardino County sheriff's officials managed communication with the public during and after the attack on Dec. 2, 2015.

It was offered as a meeting for the county's Emergency Public Information Communicators group (<http://awareandprepare.org/groups/epic>), or EPIC.

Santa Barbara County created a security committee after the San Bernardino massacre and has plans for enhanced safety measures, including employee identification badges, more lighting and protected entrances to some county buildings.

Four San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department employees presented an informative lecture to a local group that included representatives from the Santa Barbara County sheriff's (<http://www.sbsheriff.org>) and fire (<http://www.sbcfire.com>) departments, UC Santa Barbara (<http://www.ucsb.edu>), the Santa Barbara Unified School District (<http://www.sbunified.org>), the American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org/local/california/central-california/local-chapters/pacific-coast>) and other agencies and organizations.

Bachman, who has been the San Bernardino County sheriff's spokeswoman for 20 years, talked about logistics in the middle of a rapidly evolving crisis, as did Lt. Brad Toms, social media specialist Brittany Rios and Sgt. Vicki Cervantes.

"This wasn't about us," Toms said. "It was about the community and victims."

When law enforcement sprang into action, Toms said the Sheriff's Department immediately developed and then followed a crisis communication plan.

He said the best defense was preparation and role-playing exercises with command and control systems in emergency management. Authorities wanted to ensure that community safety was the top priority during the attack.

"We created a plan to help prepare for incidents like this, and it helped us," said Toms, a 27-year SBCSD veteran. "We immediately offered our assistance and communicated 24/7."

After dispatchers received the first reports of gunfire at the government center at 10:58 a.m. that day, Cervantes immediately went to the scene to respond as the department's spokeswoman.

"It's my job to protect," she explained. "We have shootings all the time in San Bernardino, but there was a lot of chaos. It brings up emotions hearing (the 9-1-1 dispatch calls) all over again."

The department turned to social media to respond and communicate information quickly — and internationally.

Rios, whose primary duty is managing the department's social media accounts, said the prevalence of such platforms practically forces their integration into community and crisis situations.

Bachman said communication was a joint coordination between the Sheriff's Department, [San Bernardino police](https://www.ci.san-bernardino.ca.us/cityhall/police_department/), the [FBI](https://www.fbi.gov), the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives](https://www.atf.gov) and the [Homeland Security Department](https://www.dhs.gov).

"We wanted to keep everyone involved so we were working as a team," she said.

"We met every hour, and the community embraced it and felt that we cared about their safety. The No. 1 priority was getting the information out, and we did everything we could with every resource."

[San Bernardino County](http://www.sbcounty.gov/Uploads/CAO/Feature/Content/ComIndicatorsReport10Rev.pdf) covers more than 20,000 square miles of land, making it the largest county in the United States. It is the fifth largest county in terms of population with more than 2 million people, according to the [2010 census](http://www.census.gov/2010census/).

— *Noozhawk* (<http://www.noozhawk.com>) staff writer Brooke Holland can be reached at bholland@noozhawk.com. Follow Noozhawk on Twitter: [@noozhawk](http://twitter.com/noozhawk), [@NoozhawkNews](http://twitter.com/noozhawkNews) and [@NoozhawkBiz](http://twitter.com/noozhawkBiz). Connect with Noozhawk on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/noozhawk>).

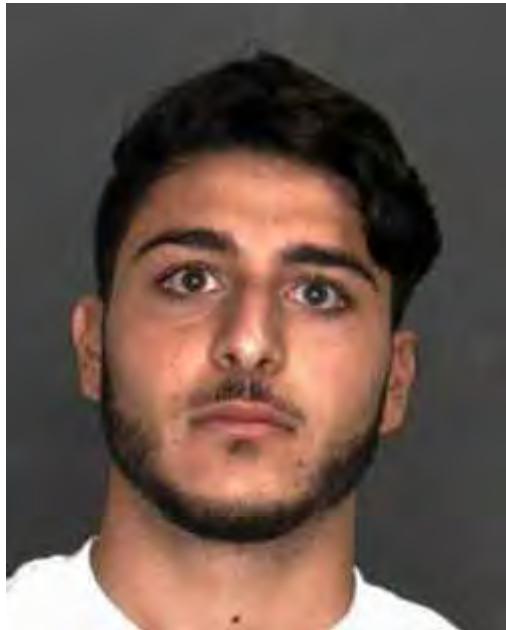
https://www.noozhawk.com/article/san_bernardino_county_sheriff_shares_terrorist_attack_experience_20160731

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

U.S.-born Syrian vindicated in Rancho Cucamonga terrorist threats case

By Joe Nelson, *The Sun*

Wednesday, August 10, 2016



Ten days after charging a U.S.-born Syrian with five felonies for alleged terrorism-related threats at a Rancho Cucamonga trade school, San Bernardino County prosecutors on Wednesday dismissed the case against 18-year-old Albert Maida.

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office spent nearly two months investigating Maida, of Newbury Park, [arresting him on](#) June 17 on suspicion of making threats against students at Universal Technical Institute, an automotive trade school that goes by the name "UTI" and provides special privileges for military veterans, two of whom were Maida's alleged victims.

Maida posted bond on a \$50,000 bail the day of his June arrest and was released from custody, giving authorities more time to investigate. On July 28, the District Attorney's Office [filed five felony charges](#) against Maida, two for making criminal threats, two for stalking and one for making a bomb threat.

A warrant was issued for Maida's arrest. He surrendered to authorities on Aug. 2, when he pleaded not guilty to the charges in Rancho Cucamonga Superior Court during his [arraignment](#). He was booked into the High Desert Detention Center in Adelanto and held in lieu of \$750,000 bail.

"At this time, after further investigation and communication with the alleged victims in this case, our office has dismissed the case against Albert Maida," District Attorney spokesman Christopher Lee said in an e-mail Wednesday. "That said, we will continue to take these types of threats seriously in the interest of public safety."

The dismissal of the charges came a day before Maida's scheduled preliminary hearing and one week after Maida's attorney, Peter Schlueter, told The Sun he believed the charges were fueled by ISIS hysteria and bias against individuals of Middle Eastern descent. He said Maida had been subjected to continual bullying by students at UTI, as reflected in sheriff's reports filed in the case.

"You worry about knee-jerk reactions, and you expect, especially the District Attorney, to examine a case from an arms-length and with a cool head," Schlueter said. "And I think if they had done that from the very beginning, they would not have charged Albert, because all the evidence that I looked at was basically derived from their own reports."

A throng of supporters for Maida, including a couple of Catholic priests, appeared at his Aug. 2 arraignment. Maida's mother, Najwa Maida, said Albert attends Jesus Sacred Heart Church in North Hollywood and Saint George Syrian Orthodox Church in San Fernando, where he volunteers with the youth groups and helps out with other duties. Clemis Eugene Kaplan, Archbishop Patriarchal Vicar of the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch's

Western Archdiocese, U.S., submitted a character reference letter to the court, dated Aug. 1, on Maida's behalf, saying Maida was "one of our faithful family members at our St. George church."

According to police reports filed in support of Maida's arrest, Maida told military veterans and other students at UTI, that he supported the Islamic terrorist organization ISIS, showed students a picture of an assortment of guns displayed at his home, randomly shouted "Allah hu Akbar!" during class and in the veterans' lounge at the school, and asked students "what they would do if he had a bomb in his backpack."

But according to Schlueter, Maida's family and several students at UTI whose statements are included in sheriff's reports filed in the case, Maida was merely reacting to constant bullying he received at the school during the 10 months he was a student there studying diesel mechanics. Students often called him "terrorist" or "ISIS," so Maida would retort by making off-color jokes about ISIS and terrorism.

UTI student Ivan Palomo, according to sheriff's reports filed in the case, told Deputy Cody Manning that Maida was bullied by other students because he is Syrian, and that Maida would jokingly make comments about ISIS and terrorism, but he did not believe Maida was a threat. Paloma told Manning he felt Maida may have been singled out by other students and things went too far.

Student Eric Arreola also told Manning students would call Maida an "ISIS member," and that Maida would sometimes go along with it. He said he did not fear Maida, nor did he believe Maida was a threat to other students, according to Manning's report.

Even one of Maida's alleged victims, military veteran Michael Maynard II, wrote in a complaint to UTI administrators dated June 9 he wasn't sure if Maida was serious or not, and that the issue was more about Maida disrespecting veterans and an instructor. The complaint was included in sheriff's reports.

"Whether Albert Maida is joking or not it is not right to be disrespectful like has [sic] been in any way towards veterans, students, or the instructors," Maynard wrote.

UTI spokesman Carlos DellaMaddalena said the school is a "military friendly school" that has veteran lounges at all 12 of its campuses nationwide. Veterans are recognized through a "Veterans Club" badge that accompanies their student identification badge.

Regarding Maida's vindication Wednesday, DellaMaddalena issued the following statement:

"UTI is committed to providing an environment where students feel safe and comfortable and where they can focus on their studies free of distractions and concerns. In this day and age, particularly with what has transpired in our very own community, given the information presented to us we felt we were duty-bound to inform law enforcement and let them use their expertise to get to the bottom of the situation."

Schlueter said he received a telephone call about 9:30 a.m. from Richard Young, who supervises the District Attorney's Rancho Cucamonga office. Young informed Schlueter he was dropping the case. Schlueter said he didn't ask why.

"I don't look a gift horse in the mouth," Schlueter said. "I learned a long time ago, if you have a winning hand, don't say anything."

More than three hours later, at 12:40 p.m., Schlueter said he received a call from a perplexed Maida wanting to know what was going on.

"I got a frantic call from Albert wondering why he was taken from the jail and deposited at a bus stop in Adelanto. He didn't know what was going," Schlueter said. He said Maida did not have a telephone and had to borrow somebody else's to call him.

"He had no idea why he was all of a sudden let out of jail, taken to the bus stop and let out," Schlueter said.

Sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Bachman could not immediately say Wednesday what the circumstances were surrounding Maida's release from custody and whether he was allowed to use a phone at the jail to call his attorney or family, who reside in Ventura County.

Maida could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160810/us-born-syrian-vindicated-in-rancho-cucamonga-terrorist-threats-case>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

[LOCAL / L.A. Now](#)

Over 2,300 marijuana plants seized from San Bernadino home



More than 2,300 marijuana plants were seized from a property in the 8000 block of Sunnyside Avenue in San Bernardino, authorities say. (San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department)

By [Erica Evans](#)

AUGUST 10, 2016, 5:25 PM

A man was arrested Tuesday after he was found tending more than 2,300 unauthorized marijuana plants at a San Bernardino property, according to law enforcement.

Camilo Farias-Rodrigues, 33, was described by authorities as a transient from central California who was hired to take care of the plants and was staying on the property in the 8000 block of Sunnyside Avenue. He was booked on suspicion of illegal cultivation of marijuana and is being held on \$25,000 bail.

The identity of the individual who hired Farias-Rodrigues is still unknown, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Deputies from the Sheriff's Central Station and investigators from the Sheriff's Marijuana Enforcement Team served a search warrant at the address after deputies responding to another call for service in the area noticed

the plants.

"Some plants were 9'-10' tall and could be seen over a 6-7-foot-tall fence," said Cynthia Bachman, public information officer for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office.

Upon entering the property, authorities found Farias-Rodrigues in the backyard tending to the growing marijuana. He was arrested without resistance and authorities confiscated the plants, which they said were in various stages of growth.

"The suspect arrested at the scene appeared to have limited experience growing marijuana," said Bachman. "The owners of the marijuana plants are rarely found at these types of grows. They are aware of the risk that law enforcement could arrive and arrest them."

Even though Farias-Rodrigues is not the property owner, deputies believe he was in violation of medical marijuana laws and local ordinances that prohibit outdoor cultivation of marijuana within unincorporated areas of the county.

The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office will determine what charges, if any, will be filed against Farias-Rodrigues.

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times



Riverside County gets Zika case No. 2

By SUZANNE HURT

2016-08-10 16:49:39



A Coachella Valley woman has tested positive for the Zika virus, becoming Riverside County's second case, health officials reported Wednesday, Aug. 10.

The woman became infected while traveling outside the country and is expected to completely recover, according to a press release from Riverside University Health System.

The county's first case, reported July 5, involved a southwest Riverside County man who got sick after returning from the Caribbean.

Most people get Zika after being bitten by infected mosquitoes. But the disease can be spread through blood transfusions, by men through sex and by a pregnant woman to an unborn or possibly newborn child.

Most infected people have no symptoms. Symptoms show up three to seven days after an infected mosquito's bite and can include fever, rash, joint pain, red eyes, muscle pain or headache. Zika can cause abnormally small heads and underdeveloped brains in infants, or microcephaly.

Contact the writer: 951-368-9444 or shurt@scng.com

© Copyright 2016 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.

[Privacy Policy & Terms of Service](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Site Map](#)

California's Cities, Counties Expected to Collect \$36 Million Annually from AB 1717

\$36 million. That's how much California's cities and counties are expected to receive each year following the passage of AB 1717 – the Prepaid Mobile Telephony Service Surcharge Collection Act. Through the law, which went into effect on January 1 of this year, cities and counties will collect a surcharge on each retail transaction involving a prepaid wireless service. Before its passage in 2014, MuniServices, one of the nation's leading providers of tax audit and revenue recovery services for local municipalities, worked diligently with industry stakeholders, and the offices of then-Assemblyman Henry Perea and Governor Jerry Brown to craft and pass the legislation. The law created a mechanism for the collection and remittance of tax revenues from the sale and use of prepaid telecommunications services. "The passage of AB 1717 was a huge step in protecting revenue for California's cities and counties," said Fran Mancia, Vice President for MuniServices. "Utility user taxes provide a significant amount of revenue that goes towards essential services like public safety and infrastructure repair." Depending on the city or county the prepaid mobile minutes are purchased in, charges can range from 9-18% of the sale. Surcharge rates are calculated by adding: prepaid 911 surcharge rate as determined by the Office of Emergency Services; California Public Utilities Commission reimbursement fee and telecommunications universal service surcharges; and local UUT charges, if applicable. "The reality is that prepaid wireless is a trend that is crossing every socioeconomic segment. Two out of every three new cell phone plans are prepaid. What that means is a crucial revenue stream is flat lining in many cities," explained Julia Erdkamp, MuniServices Client Services Manager in Southern California. "Laws are not easy to change, but the coordination with our local government partners was phenomenal. Now we get to see the results through AB 1717 – more revenue for municipalities." During the first quarter of this year, MuniServices helped some of its clients collect up to an additional \$1 million in revenue from the prepaid wireless surcharge. While a boon for now, the law is not permanent, and is expected to sunset at the end of 2019. *With more than 900 cities, counties, and special districts as clients, MuniServices is the nation's leading provider of proprietary revenue recovery, audit and administration services encompassing all general sources of municipal tax revenue. To learn more about updating or implementing a utility user tax and MuniServices, visit www.muniservices.com.*

Politics

In California's climate debate, state lawmakers push for more authority



Memorial Day rush hour commute begins in Los Angeles. (Reed Saxon / Associated Press)

By **Liam Dillon**

AUGUST 11, 2016, 12:05 AM | REPORTING FROM SACRAMENTO

With negotiations over extending California's landmark climate change programs struggling during the last month of the state's legislative session, lawmakers are once again pushing for changes at the agency responsible for making the greenhouse gas reductions work.

The target is the California Air Resources Board, which regulates pollution under the climate change program and determines how billions of dollars generated by that effort gets spent.

Over the last two weeks, a bipartisan group of assembly members have pushed to audit the agency's spending and held an oversight hearing to see if its greenhouse gas reduction programs are meeting emission targets. That's on top of legislation aimed at increasing lawmakers' authority over the agency and its spending formulas.

“

I don't think there's a more glaring example of [an agency] out of control.

— Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced)

The main bill, from Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella), would create a formal legislative committee to vet climate policies and force greater transparency in the agency's decision-making among other changes.

"The fundamental question here is, does the Legislature want to play a role in determining what the clean energy policies of California look like?" Garcia said. "Or do we want the executive office to continue driving the ship? And right now, that's really where things are at."

Garcia's bill is tied to other legislation that would extend the state's climate reduction targets past 2020 as well as the cap-and-trade program, which functions by capping how much greenhouse gas can be emitted into the atmosphere and requires companies to obtain permits to pollute. The new greenhouse gas goals wouldn't go into effect unless Garcia's bill passes too.

Garcia said he was open to adding more teeth to his legislation, and many of his colleagues in the Assembly are pushing for even more scrutiny.

Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced) spearheaded the recent effort to audit the agency's climate change spending, saying that the Air Resources Board doesn't focus enough attention on California's most polluted communities and that lawmakers needed to spend more time examining the state's most important bureaucracies.

"I don't think there's a more glaring example of [an agency] out of control," Gray said of the Air Resources Board.

Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Glendale), who signed on to Gray's audit request, said many Assembly members have formed what he called a "coalition of the weary" — those who for years have wanted to gain greater say over how the climate change program works.

"There is no conflict at all in wanting to make sure that money is being spent right and making sure that we keep the eye on the prize, which is working to reduce pollution," Gatto said.

After frustration bubbled up during another climate change debate last year, lawmakers passed a bill that gave them their first two appointees on the agency's 14-member board, both of whom are supposed to represent disadvantaged communities.

Still, some environmental advocates believe that the Air Resources Board now has become a convenient target for some lawmakers looking for excuses not to vote to extend the climate programs. Bill Magavern, policy director for the Coalition for Clean Air, noted that Gray's request came too late to be considered by the

Legislature's audit committee this year, and after the Air Resources Board had provided lawmakers with significant information about its programs.

"It's very legitimate for legislators to do oversight of ARB and other agencies," Magavern said. "But some of what we're seeing is more in the nature of political posturing and outright harassment of the agency."

Gray is one of the business-aligned Democrats who are considered key to extending climate change targets, especially if Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders push for a bipartisan supermajority vote. He said his concerns have to be addressed before he would consider supporting such an extension.

"At the same time that we extend the program, we've got to implement these changes to make sure we're doing cost-effective, efficient programs," Gray said.

liam.dillon@latimes.com

Follow [@dillonliam](#) on Twitter

Times staff writer Chris Megerian contributed to this report.

ALSO

[Business-aligned Democrats and GOP Assembly members want audit of state's climate change money](#)

[It's time for the California Air Resources Board to focus on low-income areas, lawmakers say](#)

[State lawmakers challenge Air Resources Board's power over climate change rules](#)

Updates from Sacramento

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times

[LOCAL / L.A. Now](#)

SoCal hit with worst smog in years as hot, stagnant weather brings surge in hospital visits



Smog descends on downtown Los Angeles during a November afternoon in 2015. (Los Angeles Times)

By **Tony Barboza**

AUGUST 11, 2016, 9:00 AM

Southern California is experiencing its worst smog in years this summer as heat and stagnant weather increase the number of bad air days and drive up ozone pollution to levels not seen since 2009.

Where pollution is worst, in the Inland Empire, hospitals and asthma clinics are reporting increases in patients seeking treatment for respiratory illness, their breathing difficulties exacerbated by the persistent heat and pollution.

Ozone, the lung-searing gas in smog that triggers asthma and other health problems, has exceeded federal standards on 91 days so far this year compared to 67 days over the same period last year, according to South Coast Air Quality Management District data through Monday.

In June, only four days had healthy air across the South Coast basin, which spans Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. In July, ozone levels violated federal health standards every day except

July 31.

And it's not getting any better. So far, [every day of August](#) has been over the federal limit of 70 parts per billion.

Peak concentrations of ozone have also jumped. The region recorded its highest ozone reading since 2009, when the pollutant spiked to 164 parts per billion, in the late afternoon on July 22 at the Crestline monitoring station in the San Bernardino Mountains.

"We've had a lot of high days, we've had high peaks and we're about halfway through the ozone season," said Philip Fine, deputy executive officer for the South Coast air district.

Fine blamed the increase in smog on abnormally hot, stagnant weather, including some of the strongest, most persistent pollution-trapping inversion layers in years. It's unlikely that increased emissions are to blame, he said, because of a wide variety of regulations that mandate increasingly cleaner cars, trucks and other vehicles.

Smoke from recent wildfires has also degraded air quality.

The health consequences of more polluted air were obvious to patients at an asthma and allergy clinic in Upland earlier this week.

Retired librarian Caroline Whipple said it's been so smoggy lately she's been forced to stay inside her retirement community in Claremont.

"Otherwise my throat gets all messed up and I have a hard time breathing," she said.

Garry Attridge, 54, an architect from Rancho Cucamonga, has suffered from a sore, itchy throat and wheezing, and has found himself reach for his asthma inhaler more frequently in recent months. He's been giving more breaks to the youth soccer team he coaches. On the smoggiest days, he reschedules their practices to the evening when air quality is better.

"It's disgusting," Attridge said. "The air is so thick you can almost taste it. You can't see the mountains. And it certainly affects the way they play, because they can't breathe."

This recent surge in smog is the latest indication that progress in the fight to clean ozone pollution is faltering following decades of improving air quality across Southern California.

A lack of air-cleansing storms during the drought had worsened ozone and fine-particle pollution across the state, though even those smog levels remained far below what plagued the Los Angeles region in the 1970s and '80s.

Ozone is especially difficult to control because the corrosive gas is not emitted directly, but formed through photo chemical reactions when emissions from cars, trucks, oil refineries and an array of other sources cook in the heat and sunlight.

Southern California has the nation's worst smog and fails to meet a series of federal ozone standards going back to 1979.

Cleaning ozone to current federal limits will require regulators to make massive emissions reductions over the next two decades. Climate change will complicate those efforts by increasing the number of extremely hot days that are prime for ozone formation.

The step backward on smog comes as the South Coast air quality board has been under scrutiny since being taken over by a new majority of Republicans pursuing a more [industry-friendly approach](#) to pollution regulation.

Environmentalists say the recent dive in air quality underscores the need for more aggressive regulations.

"Rather than pointing the finger at the weather, the air board should be using all of the tools they have available to reduce emissions," said Evan Gillespie of the Sierra Club.

Meanwhile, hospitals and clinics in the Inland Empire say poor air quality appears to be driving more people to seek medical treatment.

In June and July, Dignity Health Community Hospital of San Bernardino saw a 10 to 15% increase in emergency room admissions over the previous year, including many children with asthma and elderly patients with chronic illnesses that are worsened by smog.

"This should be one of the slowest times of the year for us, and that has not been the case," said Cameron Nouri, medical director of the hospital's emergency department.

Loma Linda University Medical Center has seen an increase in children with asthma symptoms. The hospital treats many people with chronic lung disorders who go to the emergency room in distress "because breathing is so difficult in heat or dirty air," said Lori Scott, who directs the department of respiratory care.

Such observations are consistent with health studies that have shown an increase in emergency room visits, hospital admissions and missed school days when ozone pollution is high. Ozone also [contributes to premature deaths](#) from cardiovascular disease and other chronic illnesses.

Asthma and allergy doctor Heena Shah said she's seen an uptick in respiratory problems since early June, as well as greater demand for inhalers and medication. She estimates about a quarter of her patients are suffering from asthma attacks, coughing, breathing difficulties and other flare-ups related to the heat and poor air quality.

"A lot of our patients have struggled," said Frank Canavan, a physician assistant at Shah's private medical practice, which has offices in Riverside and Upland. "This year you have seen a tremendous backpedaling. You're seeing ... congestion, watery eyes, irritation -- all of the symptoms that go back to those really bad days of smog in the '70s and '80s."

tony.barboza@latimes.com

Twitter: [@tonybarboza](#)

ALSO

Thousands of lives could be saved in California by stricter air pollution limits, study finds

In California's climate debate, state lawmakers push for more authority

Hiltzik: California's cap-and-trade program has cut pollution. So why do critics keep calling it a failure?

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times

This article is related to: [Environmental Pollution](#), [Air Pollution](#)

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Body-cam bill runs counter to public interest

Wednesday, August 10, 2016



Unquestionably, there's emotional and visceral appeal in legislation that would prohibit the release of a public agency's recording that depicts the killing of a peace officer in the line of duty unless the officer's immediate family gives consent.

Unfortunately, the bill amounts to terrible public policy and, in most cases, would not accomplish its desired end.

That end, of course, is to protect the grieving family members of a slain police officer from suffering further anguish from the public's viewing of their loved one's death. That is a noble aim.

But in practice, Assembly Bill 2611, by Assemblyman Evan Low, D-San Jose, would work as intended only when footage from a police body-cam or dash-mounted camera was the only recording of an officer's fatal encounter.

More often, as we've seen, the case would be that bystanders with cellphones had recorded the officer's death, the events leading up to it or the aftermath. In such cases, the police department involved may well want to publicly release its own body-cam or dash recording to show the event in context and to show that the officer had acted appropriately. Then the grieving family, rather than being shielded from the public, would face pressure from the public and perhaps from their loved one's police department to consent to release of the official footage.

But current law (Government Code Section 6255) allows public agencies and courts to balance the public's right to access recordings when the particular circumstances warrant release, against the public interest in protecting the privacy of the officer and his or her family. Under that code, police agencies would certainly favor their officer's family's privacy over public release, unless there were critical public-interest reasons to release the footage to the public.

That sort of balancing of public interests is the right approach — and it's already the law. AB 2611 would set a very dangerous precedent of allowing people who are not part of the government to control the public's access to public records — made by agents and agencies that work for and report to the public, don't forget. Absolute veto power for families goes against the public interest.

There are other, less important shortcomings in Low's bill that make it bad legislation. The California Newspaper Publishers Association points out that it's not clear exactly which relatives count as "immediate family." The bill doesn't make clear whether the consent of one family member is sufficient or whether all immediate family members — whoever that might be — must consent. It's not clear what happens if an agency cannot find any or all immediate family members, or how much time it must spend attempting to do so.

Yet AB 2611 sailed through the Assembly without a no vote. Only Sens. John Moorlach, R-Costa Mesa, and Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, have voted no in Senate committees.

If senators won't stop Low's bill, Gov. Jerry Brown should refuse to sign this legislation that runs counter to the interests of California's public and, in most cases, even to the interests of the families of police officers.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/opinion/20160810/body-cam-bill-runs-counter-to-public-interest>

© 2016 San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Public libraries becoming service centers for homeless

Public libraries and their staff are finding themselves on the front lines of serving Southern California's homeless.

The homeless use public libraries like many patrons do — to access information, use the Internet and learn, but they come with everyday needs that the average library user does not have.

Homeless people visit the libraries to escape harsh weather, get fresh drinking water, and use the bathroom and electricity, which push libraries to provide services that are not part of their intended mission.

"It's not our primary responsibility," said Heather Folmar, library operations manager for the Santa Ana Public Library. "It's not our mandate. It's not what we're paid to do and we do it because people need it."

The Santa Ana Public Library is closing Friday for two weeks to rearrange furniture to keep a closer eye on the homeless, upgrade its electrical system and replace flooring. Much of the light renovation work comes as Orange County's homeless population in the Civic Center has grown and many depend on the library for every day needs.

"And that's okay, if there are services we can provide," said Folmar. "But we can't provide showers. We can't provide a place for them to store their belongings. We can't provide them with a lot of things that they need."

The city's risk management department is paying for half of the \$25,000 renovation project, said Folmar, which includes more tables and desks.

In Los Angeles, city librarians that specialize in young adult literary noticed homeless teens were using the library computers to check email and outlets to charge their cell phones.

After fielding questions about shelters and places to find food, L.A. city public library spokesman Peter Persic said the librarians produced a directory of homeless services specifically for young people.

"We're using it at all 73 library locations, but we've also gotten requests from other library systems to provide it to them," he said.

The Los Angeles Central Library also hosts a monthly homeless services meeting called "The Source," where area service providers offer the library's homeless patrons a chance to sign up for IDs, cell phones, housing and other supports.

Persic said Los Angeles city libraries haven't had to change building setups to accommodate its homeless users.

However, in Santa Ana, the public library is the only branch in the city, and it isn't currently modern enough to accommodate needs such as extra power outlets.

"People go wherever they can charge their phone," said Marni Alcaraz, a homeless woman who has been living at Orange County's Civic Center for about two years.

Folmar said homeless people will try to sit in the middle of walkways to keep watch over their cell phones, but that's a safety hazard. Cell phones are lifelines for the homeless and that's why sometimes arguments break out in the library over whose turn it is to use the limited outlets, she said.

"All kinds of misbehavior," Folmar said. "Most of it is victimless, but it's still not acceptable in here."

Recently, the library posted signs on the building doors warning people not to pick up needles and syringes found around the premises. It has hired four security guards to watch the premises inside and out.

Concerns about safety and the homeless living at Civic Center have intensified over the last month. Orange County Superior Court staff have asked for tips on how to keep safe while walking through the area. Last week, a Santa Ana police officer [shot and wounded](#) a homeless man.

Alcaraz said she tries not to use the library, county or city building bathrooms because law enforcement officers and security guards will bang on doors to get homeless people out.

She said it makes her uncomfortable, but there aren't a lot of places for the homeless to go.

"There's just too much going on here – too many homeless people," she said. "I don't know what they are going to do [with] everybody."

Not far from her, a construction sign posted to a tree advises homeless people camping that on Aug. 17, Orange County Public Works crews will fence off a portion of the Civic Center for underground pipeline construction. Homeless people and their advocates worry about where people will be pushed to when construction begins.

BUSINESS

Reality check: Manufacturers returning to U.S. may mean jobs for robots, not people



Workers at Bicycle Corporation of America assemble bikes for Wal-Mart, Target and other retailers. (Bicycle Corporation of America)

By **Don Lee**

AUGUST 11, 2016, 6:00 AM | REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

Here's a little reality check on the current presidential campaign and promises by both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton to bring back jobs from overseas.

It's about a private Michigan company called Ranir, which makes, among other things, the business end of electric toothbrushes. After spending two years and millions of dollars to reengineer its toothbrush heads, Ranir brought back fully one-fifth of that production from China to its facility in Grand Rapids.

It's precisely the kind of thing that both Clinton and Trump, with varying degrees of emphasis and policy prescriptions, have pledged to accelerate as a way to cure America's blue-collar woes. Using tougher trade policies with China and others to restore the nation's manufacturing sector will bring home jobs, the theory goes.

Ranir's experience appears to back up such assumptions at first blush. After all, now it is American workers who are busy around the clock churning out 13,000 toothbrush heads a day for Wal-Mart, Walgreens and other retailers.

There's just one catch: Thanks to the new robotic manufacturing process that Ranir adopted, it takes only four workers at the American plant to do the same job that almost certainly required dozens more in China.

And they spend much of their time watching to make sure the computer-driven machines are working properly. Instead of the clang and bustle of a traditional plant, the four workers go about their chores in a clean-room setting, wearing large white protective hats.

So what the Ranir story actually shows is not how easy it would be to bring back manufacturing jobs, but how small the results can be, thanks largely to the very thing that made the return possible: automation.

"It sounds appealing. It sounds like an easy solution. You close borders or impose tariffs, and magically you get jobs popping back up," said Brad Hershbein, economist at the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, referring to protectionist policies such as those proposed by Trump.

But that's just not going to happen, he said. "We'll probably continue to see flatlining of employment or it declining," Hershbein said.

There are many reasons to question whether tougher trade policies alone will bring back U.S. manufacturing jobs to their past levels.

Some manufacturers would respond to tariffs and other protectionist policies by simply moving existing overseas jobs to other countries, rather than back to the U.S. Other powerful forces working against large-scale increases in U.S. manufacturing jobs include regulatory costs and an absence of suppliers in the U.S.

But even if manufacturing did return, the jobs may not, thanks to advancing technology.

Arnold Kamler, whose family has been in the bicycle business for a century, never thought he would make anything in the U.S. again after he tearfully shut the doors to his New Jersey plant in 1991. Like all one-time domestic bike makers, including better-known firms like Huffy and Schwinn, Kamler's company, Bicycle Corporation of America, turned entirely to manufacturers abroad or it buys foreign-made bikes to supply to the U.S. market.

But two years ago, Kamler brought back a small share of production from China to a rural corner of South Carolina. He was prodded by Wal-Mart's "Made in America" campaign and the realization that China's best manufacturing days were over. Annual employee turnover at his factory outside Shanghai today is more than 120%.

But automation also made it more feasible to return the work to the U.S.

This year, Kamler will make almost 300,000 bikes in Manning, S.C., about as many as he produced domestically in 1991. His company operates with about a third fewer employees than it needed back then. With 4,000 feet of overhead conveyors and the latest wheel-building equipment, his 115 employees assemble bikes at a rate that would require twice as many workers in China.

Those are indeed new American jobs, but the pay scale is modest — they earn \$11 to \$12 an hour to start, plus health insurance, 75% employer-paid — not quite the renaissance sometimes suggested by the presidential candidates.

And Kamler still imports 2.6 million bikes a year from China. Its South Carolina manufacturing won't be profitable for at least another couple of years.

Even as he expands his production volume and capabilities in the U.S., he doesn't foresee large increases in employment. Next year, Kamler plans to go to 450,000 bikes in South Carolina, a 50% increase. But the company may add only 30 workers.

He also is investing in a state-of-the-art painting operation and wants to make his own aluminum rims rather than importing them. He recalled how in 1991, bike rims were made completely by hand, first cut, then welded, buffed down and finally holes punched in them before being sent for painting or chrome-plating.

Today, he says, a new and expensive Dutch-made system can take 20-foot sections of aluminum and churn out a finished rim in about 90 seconds. For that, the company would need only one operator, just to make sure that the machines don't jam.

"It's so automated, it's inspiring," he said of bike manufacturing today.

Some economists think the U.S. could bring back as many as 2 million factory jobs by eliminating the country's merchandise trade deficit, which hit a record \$745 billion last year, half with China. But it is not that simple.

"Hiring someone is kind of the last thing you do because it's a potentially long-term commitment," said Augustine Tantillo, president of the National Council of Textile Organization. "The mentality is, 'Can we increase our output first by becoming more efficient by using better technology as the first resort?'"

Tantillo remembers when 1.8 million people worked in textile and apparel manufacturing about 20 years ago. Today, it's around 600,000, including cotton and fiber industries, with some of the decrease caused by technology and some by cheaper labor overseas.

Although U.S. manufacturing employment overall, as a share of all non-farm jobs, has been falling since the end of World War II, there was a particularly severe drop from 2000 to 2009. During that period, factory jobs plunged from more than 17 million to 11.5 million; about half of that came between 2000 and 2003 when the U.S. was in a relatively brief and mild recession. (It since has edged back up to about 12.3 million.)

When Trump and Clinton point the finger at China, they aren't totally off-base. Research suggests that a large chunk of the manufacturing job loss during the 2000s was the result of a surge in Chinese imports and competition, itself the consequence of changing U.S. policy in 2000 that gave permanent normal trade relations status to China and the country's ascension to the World Trade Organization the following year.

That designation removed the uncertainty of annual tariff renewals and spurred large-scale investments and activity from both U.S. and Chinese companies, accelerating what had been gradually shifting trends in global production and trade flows amid China's rise, said Peter Schott of Yale University, who wrote a paper on the subject with Justin Pierce of the Federal Reserve.

Part of that shift, though, included large-scale investments in technologies and processes — which boosted productivity but also restrained employment at home.

In motor vehicle and parts manufacturing, domestic employment fell by half from 2000 to 2009, to about 650,000. Since the economic recovery in mid-2009, car sales have taken off and the industry's gross output has more than doubled, to \$662.5 billion last year.

Another government measure of car-manufacturing value that excludes costs for energy and raw materials shows that the industry tripled between 2009 and 2015. But during that same period, the industry's employment went up by only about 40% and remains far below what it was in 2000.

The difference can be seen in the tens of thousands of robots and other streamlining processes, including advances in transportation and information technology, that have reduced the need for human hands at American auto plants.

Since 2000, the traditional Big Three domestic automakers — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler — have sliced in half the labor hours needed to assemble a car, to about 22, according to Harbour Reports and the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich.

And the industry's not done. Many of the labor hours of car production are in the final assembly stage, where seats, instrument panels and other parts are installed. Though still done largely manually, those tasks eventually will be performed by smaller and more dexterous robots, said Jay Baron, president of the Center for Automotive Research.

"That'll be the next big growth area," he said.

don.lee@latimes.com

Follow me at [@dleelatimes](#)

ALSO

[Macy's plans to shut down 100 stores](#)

Arianna Huffington is leaving the Huffington Post

Unsporting rule? Olympic policy bars companies from tweeting about the Games

Copyright © 2016, Los Angeles Times